1st Session, 4th Parliament, 16 Victoria, 1853.

PETITION

Of Henry Moyle, Esquire, of the Township of Brantford, in the County of Brant, one of the United Counties of Wentworth Halton and Brant.

On Motion of Mr. Christie of Wentworth,

Ordered to be Printed, 20th April, 1853.

Printed, 25th April, 1853.

QUEBEC:
PRINTED BY JHON LOVELL, MOUNTAIN STREET.

1st Session, 4th Parliament, 16 Victoria, 1853.

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PETITION.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly, of the Province of Canada, in Parliament Assembled.

THE PETITION OF HENRY MOYLE, ESQUIRE, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRANTFORD, IN THE COUNTY OF BRANT, ONE OF THE UNITED COUNTIES OF WENTWORTH, HALTON AND BRANT.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That in the years 1849 and 1850, certain seditious, treasonable, and very offensive Letters against the Government, were published in the *Brantford Courier* newspaper, under the signature of G. M. Johnson, an Indian, in the employ of the New England Company, as Interpreter, which said Letters were evidently intended to bring Her Majesty's Canadian Government into contempt, and were further calculated to endanger the fidelity of the Indians, who would be likely to be influenced by such addresses from one of their own class.

As one of the Senior Magistrates of this Section, it became a public duty to notice the dangerous publications alluded to, and Your Petitioner, in concert with a Brother Magistrate, the late Nathan Gage, Esquire, since deceased (or he would have been a party in this Petition,) took such steps as the Law directed, and tranmitted copies of the said publications to Her Majesty's Attorney General, and requested his opinion thereon for our guidance.

Your Petitioner further represents that shortly after the period alluded to, His Excellency the Governor General visited this section of the Province, when the aforesaid publications were brought under His Excellency's notice, and they were considered to be of such importance as to induce His Excellency to give instructions to Your Petitioner, who was then about to go to Europe, to lay the said publications before the New England Company in London, and also to Report to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the action thereon taken by the said New England Company.

Your Petitioner accordingly attended several meetings of the Directors of the New England Company, specially convened at their office in Great St. Helen's, London, in January, 1850, and the Directors finally agreed that a full investigation should be made into the whole affair, and a journey was subsequently undertaken from the West of England to London, in order to obtain a written statement of the decision, and to Report to the Colonial Office, as before stated.

Your Petitioner further brought under the notice of the said Company their departure from the Ancient Charter, by making the Institution of a High Church, an exclusive character, which was not intended by the Charter, and is well understood by the Directors and their Missionaries, it being stated in the Charter, that the Institution originated in the united exertions of Dissenters and Churchmen, and particularly refers to a Munificent bequest by the Reverend Doctor Daniel Williams, an eminent Welsh Presbyterian or Non-Conformist, and was the same individual who endowed the noble Library in Red Cross Street, London, known and used, as the Congregational Library at this day.

It is also well known that there were no Episcopalian Churches in New England at the date of the Charter (1649, for Indians,) notwithstanding the promises by the Directors, as before stated, they have never taken any action whatever in

the investigation, so fully promised, and the whole affair becomes a precedent for future insult to the Government and its supporters, whenever the Indians or their Missionaries or Servants may feel disposed. Occasions of this kind will be certain to recur as the natural result of evil influence on the minds of the Indian youth, under the tuition of an individual of the description of character clearly indicated in the published letters before alluded to, or whenever the High Church pretensions may be affected.

Your Petitioner is enabled to judge more accurately of the increasing demeralization of the Indians from his own position, and from the statistics of crime, the results of drunkenness, bigamy, prostitution and indolence. During the past year, an Indian was killed in a drunken affray near my own residence, and a representation was then transmitted to the manager of the establishment, but failed to produce any beneficial effect; in fact the degraded position of this Mission will be most conspicuous when compared with any other Indian Mission in the Province.

Your Petitioner therefore prays (as a necessary measure to prevent the recurrence of insult to the Government and its supporters, and to maintain the dignity of the Law,) that, proper steps be taken to obtain such alteration in the existing Charter of the said New England Company, as will place the appointment and control of Directors or Managers for the disbursement or management of that portion of the endowment heretofore expended in Canada, in the Governor and Council, through the usual nomination of the District Councils; such Directors to be residents in Canada, and have a stake or interest in the peace and prosperity of the Country, and that the said Directors be required to comply with the clearly expressed intentions of the benefactors of the ancient endowment.

Your Petitioner is authorized to state that the great majority of the local Magistrates in this section, concur in the foregoing prayer, and will consider it a public duty to urge that immediate action be taken in the matter.

And Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

HENRY MOYLE.

Sheep Walk, near Brantford, August, 1852.